華族探偵 素戔の華麗なる冒険
The Splendid Adventures of the Noble Detective
【死神仮面東京二現ハルノ巻】
[The Second Case of the Shinigami Mask - Spring Volume]

'THE "SHINIGAMI MASK" APPEARS ONCE AGAIN.'
APPARENTLY HE ROBBED JEWELRY FROM THE SHIROKIYA DEPARTMENT STORE.

YES MA'AM!
I'M OFF!

BUT WOW, I JUST WENT TO SHIROKIYA THE OTHER DAY.
IT'S BEEN SO DANGEROUS LATELY. CHIYO DEAR, MAKE SURE TO BE CAREFUL

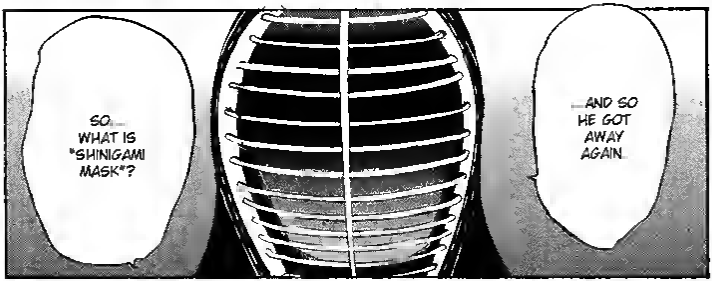
MOTONARI-SAMA, WILL YOU BE WORKING AT THE POLICE STATION TODAY?
YEP.
I'LL LEAVE THE HOUSE-HOLD IN YOUR HANDS.
HAVE A GOOD DAY!
NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY KENDO HALL
"SHINIGAMI MASK," HUH.

WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY? IS IT BASED ON ONE OF EDOGAWA RAMPO'S CHARACTERS?
YES. HE WEARS A MASK THAT COVERS HALF HIS FACE WITH A HOOD AND THEN BLACK WESTERN CLOTHING UNDERNEATH
Hahaha!
Imagination
thinking...
SOUNDS LIKE A STRANGE FELLOW
OH YEAH. "SHINIGAMI MASK" APPEARED IN YESTERDAY'S JEWELRY EXHIBIT AT SHIROKIYA
THIS SUMMER'S GOING TO BE A HOT ONE

HAHA HAHA HA!
HAHAHA! THIS "PRINCESS' TEAR" IS MINE NOW!

WELL, INSPECTOR MORI, I SUPPOSE THIS ROUND GOES TO ME AS WELL!
DAMMIT! WHY HAVEN'T THE POLICE OFFICERS REACHED THE ROOFTOP YET?!
ACTUALLY, I'LL GO UP THERE MYSELF, SO WAIT FOR ME!!
AS IF I'D WAIT AROUND FOR YOU, INSPECTOR...
BUT FEAR NOT! FOR WE WILL CERTAINLY MEET AGAIN, INSPECTOR-DONO!

SFX: bang bang
FAREWELL FOR NOW!
WAIT!
GODDAMN! TO THINK HE'D GET US AGAIN LIKE THIS!
AH.... AH...


SO.... WHAT IS "SHINIGAMI MASK"?
...AND SO HE GOT AWAY AGAIN.

IKEDA SENSEI, I JUST TOLD YOU
THE "SHINIGAMI MASK" IS A THIEF WHO'S BEEN STIRRING UP PUBLIC ATTENTION.
OH, I SEE.
EXHI-BITION MATCH!
INSTRUCTOR IKEDA VS CONSTABLE TANAKA YOSHIO!
BOW!
MORI-KUN MUST BE GOING NUTS
YES, UNDER-STAND-ABLY.
SFX: Jumps
OH? LOOKS LIKE TANAKA-KUN AND MOTONARI-KUN ARE FACING EACH OTHER.
AH! INSPECTOR MORI!

I'M HERE BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT WITH TANAKA-KUN. BUT...
I CAN WAIT UNTIL AFTER THIS...
...BUT TANAKA-KUN IS ONE OF THE BEST SWORDSMEN EVEN IN THE POLICE, YOU KNOW?
SAY WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT MOTONARI-KUN BEING AN INSTRUCTOR, BUT WILL HE EVEN BE A MATCH FOR HIM?
BEGIN!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, INSPECTOR.
SHOCK
INSTRUCTOR IKEDA MAY NOT APPEAR TO BE THE MOST SHARP-WITTED MAN TO YOU, BUT HIS ABILITY WITH THE SWORD IS AMAZING.
HE'S A CERTIFIED SWORDSMAN OF THE HOKUSHINI-TTOU-RYUU SCHOOL
WHAT?! IS THAT TRUE?! HE'S THAT STRONG?!

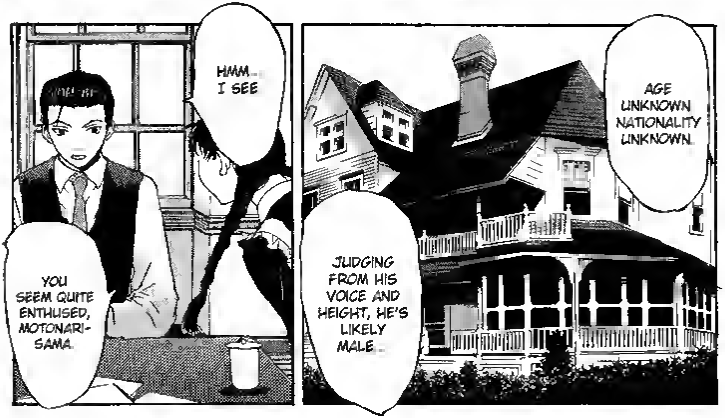
CLACK
THE ITTOU DOJO MOVED TO HOKKAIDO AFTER THE GREAT KANTO EARTHQUAKE, REMEMBER?
BUT INSTRUCTOR IKEDA STAYED BEHIND IN TOKYO.
AND NOW HE'S TEACHING THE POLICE...
THOUGH HE ONLY COMES AROUND RANDOMLY TWICE A WEEK
APPARENTLY, HE WORKS AS A DETECTIVE ON HIS OTHER DAYS.
DETECTIVE, HUH... HE'S ALWAYS GETTING IN OUR WAY SO I RATHER WISH HE'D STOP...
IT SEEMS HE COULD LIVE QUITE WELL OFF WITH HIS SWORD, SO WHY DOESN'T HE DEVOTE HIMSELF TO JUST THAT?
WHO KNOWS
YAAAH!!
DON

*t/n 'Tsuki' is a thrust to the throat in kendo

THAT WAS AN AMAZING TSUKI.
HE'S CERTAINLY STRONG... BUT WELL, HOW DO I PUT IT... MOTONARI-KUN REALLY DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO HOLD BACK, DOES HE?
...OH, TANAKA-KUN. IS YOUR THROAT OKAY?

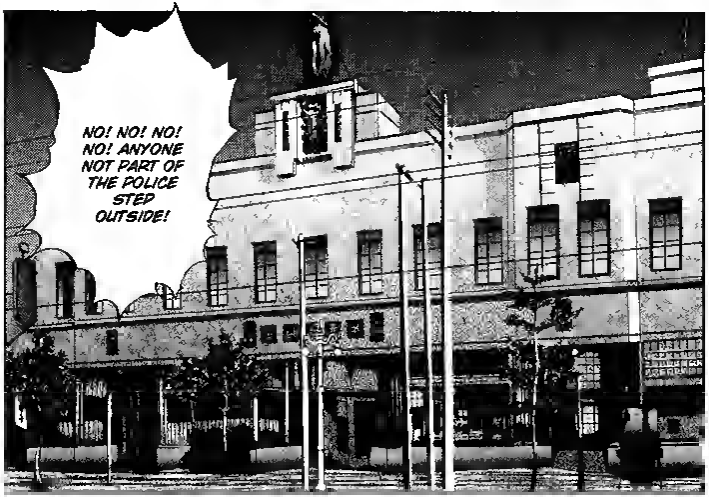
THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER ADVANCE NOTICE FROM "SHINIGAMI MASK."
HE'LL BE AT TENKI HALL THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, AT 9 PM.
I SAW YOU GETTING TAKEN AWAY ON A COT EARLIER SO I WAS WONDERING ABOUT YOUR CONDITION
OH YES THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, TANAKA-KUN? YOU'VE SEEN SHINIGAMI MASK MULTIPLE TIMES BY NOW...
HMM... I'D LIKE TO SEE "SHINIGAMI MASK" AT LEAST ONCE, AS WELL.
SHALL I LEND A HAND, MORI-KUN?
SFX: shock
TANAKA-KUN IS AT THE HOSPITAL.
.....EH?!

ALRIGHT. I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
I'LL CATCH "SHINIGAMI MASK" MYSELF!


HMM... I SEE
YOU SEEM QUITE ENTHUSED, MOTONARI-SAMA.
AGE UNKNOWN NATIONALITY UNKNOWN.
JUDGING FROM HIS VOICE AND HEIGHT, HE'S LIKELY MALE...

HE'S QUITE DETERMINED TO CATCH THAT "SHINIGAMI MASK"
AH, ABOUT THAT PHANTOM THIEF,
THE PLACE THAT HE SENT THE ADVANCE NOTICE TO, TENKI HALL, IS A JEWELRY STORE IN GINZA...
KENMOCHI-KUN, WHAT EXACTLY DID HE SAY HE WAS GOING TO STEAL?
I ASKED ONE OF THEIR STORE WORKERS, AND REPORTEDLY, HE WILL BE GOING AFTER A LARGE DIAMOND CALLED "THE AFRICAN STAR."
I'VE PREPARED A BLUEPRINT OF THE STORE AND A MAP OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR YOU.
THANKS.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KENMOCHI-KUN?
MORI-KUN AND I GO WAY BACK OF COURSE HE'LL LET ME INSIDE.
WHEN WILL YOU BE ARRIVING ON THE SCENE, MOTONARI-SAMA?
IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO ENTER THE SHOP WHEN IT'LL BE SWARMING WITH POLICE


NO! NO! NO! NO! ANYONE NOT PART OF THE POLICE STEP OUTSIDE!

HEY, MORI-KUN, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WE GO WAY BACK, DON'T WE?!
NO, NO. HE'S NEVER EVEN ONCE BEEN A HELP TO US
MOTONARI-KUN, YOU'LL JUST GET IN OUR WAY
WE'LL NOTIFY YOU WHEN WE CATCH HIM, SO JUST WAIT FOR THE GOOD NEWS AT HOME
MORI-KUN, YOU JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND MY TRUE ABILITY!
RELEASE ME! I WILL STAY HERE!
...SO AS EXPECTED, HE GOT KICKED OUT..

SFX passed
LET'S THINK OF ANOTHER WAY
THERE'S NO HELPING IT
UNBELIEV-ABLE!
MOTONARI-SAMA
YES
IF "SHINIGAMI MASK" GETS CAUGHT INSIDE THE STORE, WELL THAT'LL BE THE END OF THAT. BUT IF HE SOMEHOW MAKES IT OUTSIDE THEN THAT'LL BE OUR CHANCE AT GETTING HIM.
HIS ESCAPE ROUTE?
I WAS ABLE TO FIND WITH RELATIVE EASE WHAT KIND OF SECURITY SYSTEM WOULD BE IN PLACE
OF COURSE IT'S CRAWLING WITH POLICE OUTSIDE THE STORE AS WELL, BUT THE SECURITY IS SURPRISINGLY FULL OF HOLES

I'M SURE "SHINIGAMI MASK" HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO THAT AS WELL
HE WOULDN'T HAVE SENT OUT THAT WITHOUT SECURING AN ESCAPE ROUTE FOR HIMSELF AS HE HAS NO INTENTIONS OF GETTING CAUGHT
BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK HE'LL COME THROUGH HERE?
YES, THIS MANHOLE IS DEFINITELY IN HIS PLANS
IT'S A LITTLE FAR FROM THE STORE, BUT CONSIDERING THE SECURITY HOLES AND THE GEOGRAPHY, THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE
AND EARLIER TODAY, I SAW THAT THE LID
WAS NOT CLOSED PROPERLY
AFTER HIM! DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!!
SFX dash

MOTONARI-SAMA, WHAT'RE YOU...?
I'M CLIMBING UP TO THE ROOF.
AH! OH NO!
HE CAME BY HERE INSTEAD!
SFX dash
CAN YOU GET ME SOME-THING?
PLEASE HOLD ON A SECOND!
AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I'D LIKE SOMETHING TO USE AS A WEAPON.
police officer!
YES, WELL...
A SWORD, HUH? GOOD FIND.
HERE'S A SABER!
SFX throw

I WISH YOU HAD MY NORIMUNE* SWORD...
I TOLD YOU, IF ANYONE BESIDES MILITARY OR POLICE WALKS AROUND IN PUBLIC WITH A SWORD THEY'LL GET ARRESTED...

*t/n A famous swordsmith

WHO'RE YOU? AH
YOU'RE THAT USELESS DETECTIVE WHO WAS AT THE STORE EARLIER.
PREPARE YOURSELF, THIEF.
I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU MOVE?

I MESSED UP.
I INTENDED ON CUTTING OFF AN ARM...
IKEDA MOTO-NARI
...WHAT
IS YOUR NAME?
BUT THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR USING SOMETHING I'VE NEVER HANDLED BEFORE.
I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU FOR BEING ABLE TO INJURE MY ARM!
LET US MEET AGAIN, MOTONARI-KUN!
はははは
SFX hahahahaha

AMAZING, MOTONARI-SAMA!
YOU ACTUALLY MANAGED TO HURT THAT "SHINIGAMI MASK"!
MOTONARI-SAMA, YOU WERE INTER-VIEWED BY A NEWSPAPER REPORTER?
YEP.
HM? DID "SHINIGAMI MASK" REALLY LOOK LIKE THIS?
WHO THE HELL DREW THIS BULLSHIT PORTRAIT?!
...APPARENTLY IT WAS INSTRUCTOR IKEDA.....

Shinigami to Tantei to Yuurei Gakuen Volume 1 Chapter 5.1

Saitou Misaki

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